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United States Senate

June 6, 2018

Jon Adler
Director
Bureau of Justice Assistance
Office of Justice Programs
810 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531

RE: *Application from Hamilton County Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs for Funding from the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-Based Program – BJA-2018-13607*

Dear Mr. Adler:

As Senator from Indiana, I am deeply concerned about the increase in opioid abuse and addiction throughout the state and the nation. I have collaborated with concerned Hoosiers to develop effective policy and resources to help those suffering from the devastation of this disease throughout my tenure, and I am aware of work being led by the Hamilton County Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs (HCCAD) to address the increase of opioid use in its communities. One of its efforts, the development and implementation of Hamilton County's *Community Opioid Prevention Effort (COPE)*, is a wide-ranging initiative that seeks to expand existing services for those suffering from substance use disorder while expanding and enhancing prevention education, community outreach efforts, access to treatment services, and development of research and data collection for community use. I am pleased to support HCCAD's application for funding from the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-Based Program.

The objective of the COPE program is to reduce the number of opioid overdose fatalities while ultimately providing the support and services needed to identify individual needs and direct users to resources and services with the goal of breaking the addiction cycle. Collaborators include local medical and behavioral healthcare providers, law enforcement, public safety and correctional agencies. Additionally, HCCAD will partner with Indiana University for research and reporting.

In March of 2016, I proposed an amendment to the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) that would allow funds received as part of a naloxone grant to be used by first responder units to establish an outreach coordinator to follow up with individuals who have been administered naloxone, and connect them with appropriate follow-up services. I believe that the COPE initiative is a promising step forward in the fight to address Indiana's opioid abuse crisis.

If awarded funding, HCCAD will hire a project coordinator who will be responsible for development and oversight of a data collection, analysis and sharing plan to help evaluate the program. I applaud HCCAD and its partners for their efforts to join forces and maximize resources to help those fighting opioid addiction, and I encourage a favorable review of their application for funding in accordance with U.S. law and public policy. Questions and announcements can be directed to my office by contacting Marianne Black at Marianne_Black@donnelly.senate.gov or by telephone at (317) 226-5555.

Sincerely,



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator